



SUGGESTIONS FOR ORGANIZING THE VICTORY GARDEN
PROGRAM IN URBAN AREAS

A. The county agent's responsibility with city gardens:

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reserve Under present conditions a well-organized city garden program will carry on under its own power if so organized as to utilize the leadership available. Interest is already high. Usually, there are many local amateur gardeners who will welcome an opportunity to serve their community and their country by organizing and later by supervising a Victory Garden program. The county agent should avoid being placed in a position of responsibility. A properly organized program will relieve rather than add to the demands upon his time. His experience in organization and his subject matter information can be most helpful as an adviser to the Victory Garden committee.

The county agent should set in motion the machinery which will result in the calling of a conference of persons and organizations likely to be interested in sponsoring an active Victory Garden program in each city of his county. Such a conference should be called by the local civilian defense council, the county garden council, the mayor, or other influential persons or organizations. The conference should be discussed in advance with a few leaders so that it will proceed harmoniously to attain the objectives.

B. What the conference should do:

1. Outline need for every family having a Victory Garden.
2. Get every group interested in promoting Victory Gardens to unite on a common program.
3. Establish a Victory Garden committee which will plan and carry out the details of the program.
4. Localize publicity which will create interest in Victory Gardens.

C. Those attending the conference should be representative of:

1. City government--mayor, council, welfare department, parks.
2. County government--commissioners.
3. Civilian defense organization.
4. City school system.
5. County school superintendent.
6. Chamber of commerce.
7. Local press.
8. Civic clubs.
9. Garden clubs.
10. Parent-teacher associations.
11. Women's clubs.
12. Commercial vegetable growers.

13. 4-H Club council.
14. County agricultural agent.
15. Home demonstration agent.

D. Items on which the Victory Garden committee should act:

1. Plans for Victory Garden program.
2. Information on size of garden, varieties, fertilizers, insects, etc.
3. Garden plots for those who do not have suitable land available.
4. Supervision for garden activities during spring and summer months.
5. Water supply.
6. Organization of industrial, school, or community garden areas.
7. Arrangements for tools, fertilizer, seed, and insecticides.
8. Plans for preserving or selling surplus food produced.
9. Plans for Victory Garden shows, contests, etc.
10. Arrangements for experienced gardeners to assist inexperienced gardeners.
11. Arrangements for releasing timely garden information to local newspapers.
12. Arrangements for protection against theft, vandalism, or other destruction.

E. Reasons for town and city gardens:

1. Guarantees to the gardener an adequate supply of vegetables and small fruits.
2. Releases products of commercial producers for consumers in congested areas, for our armed forces and our allies.
3. Releases transportation space required to haul fresh and canned vegetables and fruits from distant commercial production areas.
4. Provides healthful outdoor exercise and recreation for indoor workers, and vacation occupation for children.

THE NATION NEEDS 12,000,000 CITY VICTORY GARDENS IN 1943.